

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A system for providing information to a client computer in a client/server environment comprising a client computer coupled to a server computer, the client computer operable to send demographical information to a server computer and receive a package of rule files from the server computer based on the demographical information, the client computer further operable to select one or more rule files from the package using a rules engine and based on rules clauses-included with the rule files.
2. A method for providing information to a computer in a client/server environment comprising:
 - sending demographic information to a server computer;
 - receiving a package of rule files from a server computer, the choice of package received determined in part by the demographic information; and
 - choosing rule files from the package at the client by using a rules-based comparison of demographic information with rules clauses included in the rule files.
3. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:
 - receiving demographic information;
 - comparing the demographic information received to demographic values stored in one or more rules clauses stored in one or more files stored in a package of files;
 - selecting files from the package based on the comparison; and
 - executing actions associated with the selected files.
4. A data structure for a decision engine stored in a computer readable medium, the data structure comprising:
 - first section for storing actions to be performed; and
 - second section containing one or more rules clauses to be executed by the decision engine, the execution of the actions in the first section depending on the evaluation of the rules clauses.

5. The data structure of claim 4 further comprising a third section containing one or more grammar definitions which define comparison statements for the rules clauses.
6. A rules evaluation system for a user's computer comprising:
 - a rules-based agent having a plurality of rule clauses for evaluating data;
 - a plurality of triggers having functionality to notify the rules-based agent to begin evaluating;
 - a plurality of data providers to provide data for evaluation; and
 - a plurality of actions for providing information to a user based upon the evaluated data.
7. The rules evaluation system of claim 6, wherein the trigger is based upon user activity.
8. The rules evaluation system of claim 6, wherein the trigger is based upon time.
9. The rules evaluation system of claim 6, wherein the trigger is based upon computer online activity.
10. The rules evaluation system of claim 6, wherein the trigger is based upon hardware present in the computer.
11. The rules evaluation system of claim 6, wherein the trigger is based upon software present in the computer.
12. The rules evaluation system of claim 6, wherein rule clauses can be added dynamically.
13. The rules evaluation system of claim 6, wherein triggers can be added dynamically.
14. The rules evaluation system of claim 6, wherein data providers can be added dynamically.

15. The rules evaluation system of claim 6, wherein actions can be added dynamically.
16. The rules evaluation system of claim 6, wherein the data provider detects a level of ink in the user's printer.
17. The rules evaluation system of claim 6, wherein the data provider detects a speed of the user's computer hard drive.
18. The rules evaluation system of claim 6, wherein the data provider detects an amount of memory installed on the user's computer.
19. The rules evaluation system of claim 6, wherein the data provider detects downloaded software.
20. The rules evaluation system of claim 6, wherein the action is a pop-up box displayed to the user.
21. The rules evaluation system of claim 6, wherein the action is an e-mail sent to the user.
22. The rules evaluation system of claim 6, wherein the action is a link to a related website presented to the user.
23. The rules evaluation system of claim 6, wherein the action is a video displayed on the user's computer.
24. A rules evaluation system comprising:
 - a rules engine;
 - one or more rules clauses for processing by the rules engine, each rules clause having a specific type, a comparison statement and a value;
 - a grammar file for processing by the rules engine, the grammar file providing an interpretation of comparison statements found in the rules clause;

one or more items of user data for processing by the rules engine, the user data containing demographical information concerning a user, the user data to be compared with values stored in the rules clauses by the rules engine; and

wherein the rules engine evaluates the rules clauses using the user data and grammar file, the rules engine executing an action if the rules clauses are evaluated to be true.

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